

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 272428

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TOSEC 072

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ALLON AT OVERSEAS WRITERS LUNCHEON

SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM
SHERMAN

ISRAELI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YIGAL ALLON MADE THE FOLLOW-
ING POINTS ON THE RECORD AT OVERSEAS WRITERS LUNCH AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 272428

AFTERWARDS TO TV CAMERAS DECEMBER 11:

1. BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO DOES NOT SET A DEADLINE. HE SAID TIME WOULD NOT ALLOW ISRAEL TO FIND OUT "WHAT ARE THE REAL INTENTIONS OF OUR NEIGHBORS," INCLUDING EGYPT, BEFORE BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO CAIRO IN MID-JANUARY. HE SAW NO REASON WHY BREZHNEV'S VISIT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SUCH A "SIGNIFICANT THING THAT WE SHOULD CONCLUDE SOMETHING BEFORE HE IS COMING." DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENTS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED "INSTANTLY", THEY CANNOT BE "DICTATED" BY THE VISITS OF "PROMINENT VISITORS". HE CONCLUDED THAT "MAYBE AFTER HIS VISIT, IT WILL BE EASIER FOR ALL OF US."

2. HE DENIED ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT KISSINGER HAD PRESSED HIM THIS WEEK FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE MOUNTAIN PASSES AND THE ABU RUDAIIS OIL FIELDS IN SINAI. OF THE TALKS, HE SAID: WE DID NOT REACH YET THE DRAWING OF LINES ON ANY MAP. IT WAS A DISCUSSION OF

PRINCIPLES AND GENERALITIES. I TOO HAD TO PUT FORWARD QUESTIONS TO THE OTHER SIDE. WITHIN THESE PRINCIPLES AND GENERALITIES, WHAT DO THEY GIVE IN RETURN FOR WITHDRAWALS? WE DID NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS ON THE DEPTH OF WITHDRAWALS OR IN WHICH DIRECTIONS.

3. THE PALESTINIANS MUST FIND THEIR IDENTITY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT INCLUDING "OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST" (JORDAN). HUSSEIN HAS ABDICATED HIS RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE HIS BRETHREN AT THE RABAT SUMMIT PREVENTED HIM FROM ACCEPTING IT. YET ISRAEL WILL NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO. THEREFORE A "SOLUTION" CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN TIME.

4. ISRAEL WILL NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO, OR ACCEPT ITS PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. THE PLO IS ONLY A "ROOF" FOR SPLINTER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WANTING THE ANNIHILATION OF ISRAEL. "OTHER PALESTINIANS" EXIST WITH WHOM WE "SHALL FIND OURSELVES HALF WAY" (NO ELABORATION OR EXPLANATION).

5. HE REPEATEDLY REFUSED TO SINGLE OUT EGYPT AS THE SOLE CANDIDATE FOR NEXT NEGOTIATIONS. "THE FIRST BIRD GETS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 272428

THE WORM," HE SAID. BUT HIS "PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES" HERE WERE NEEDED FOR MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY.

6. (IN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BEFORE THE TV CAMERAS): IF ISRAEL SEEKS A LONGER INTERIM AGREEMENT, IT IS ONLY TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED IMMEDIATELY ON A NEGOTIATED PEACE SETTLEMENT. ISRAEL DOES NOT SEEK TIME FOR ONLY THE SAKE OF TIME IN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

7. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS CARRIED ON THROUGH US MEDIATION. WHAT IS NEEDED IS "REAL, SERIOUS, QUIET -- NOT SECRET" NEGOTIATIONS.

8. GENEVA IS A "VERY IMPORTANT INSTITUTION OR FRAMEWORK," BUT THE "RHETORIC OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES" THERE CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE "DAY WILL COME" FOR GOING BACK TO GENEVA, BUT HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE ISRAELI VIEW IS THAT THAT DAY SHOULD NOT COME SOON.

9. SUPERPOWER GUARANTEES OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST CANNOT SUBSTITUTE FOR A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

10. THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT BEEN "TOO HELPFUL" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. US DIPLOMACY UNDER KISSINGER'S DIRECTION HAS BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT A MEDIATION ROLE, WITH THE US MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES, WHILE THE SOVIET

UNION HAS "SOMEHOW PREFERRED NOT TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL" SEVERED IN 1967.

11. ISRAEL WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED BY THREAT OF WAR OR WAR ITSELF. IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE UNDER THREATS. NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN AN "AGREEABLE ATMOSPHERE AND WE ARE NOT TO BE FRIGHTENED BY ANYONE". BUT ISRAEL IS READY TO EXHAUST EVERY CHANCE FOR NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH US MEDIATION. THIS WAS THE CONTEXT OF HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK -- TO FIND OUT AFTER RABAT AND THE UN DEBATE IF "CANDIDATES" EXIST FOR DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE "FRAMEWORK" OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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PAGE 04 STATE 272428

12. DURING HIS VISIT LAST JULY, HE HAD URGED THAT IN PREPARING GROUND FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATING PROGRESS, IT WOULD BE "MOST ADVISABLE" NOT TO HAVE UNITED NATIONS DEBATE THIS YEAR ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE PLO, ASSISTED BY "SYRIA AND OTHERS" AT RABAT -- AND IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- HAD SUCCEEDED IN THEIR STRATEGY OF "UNDERMINING ANY POLITICAL PROGRESS." THAT PLO STRATEGY HAD ALREADY BEEN EVIDENT IN THE CRITICISM OF EGYPT AND SYRIA FOR THEIR DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL.

COMMENT: ALLON TRIED HARD TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL IS READY FOR NEW DISENGAGEMENT, BUT THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO BE RUSHED INTO ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS. HE PLAYED DOWN ANY SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF HIS VISIT HERE. HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY RABAT AND

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE. HE DID LEAN OVER BACKWARDS TO RELIEVE TWO OF THE EMBARRASSMENTS CAUSED SADAT BY RABIN'S HA'ARETZ INTERVIEW: 1) ALLON DENIED NEW MOVEMENT ON SINAI IS TIED TO BREZHNEV'S IMPENDING TRIP TO CAIRO AND PROSPECTS OF NEW SOVIET INFLUENCE IN EGYPT: 2) HE STEERED CLEAR OF ANY SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL IS CONCENTRATING ON GOING IT ALONE WITH EGYPT IN ORDER TO SPLIT EGYPT AND SYRIA. TODAY ALLON APPEARED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY EVEN USING THE WORD, EGYPT, AS A SOLE CANDIDATE FOR FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. INGERSOLL

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